

GREENFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
RECORDS, 1791-1991

1 linear foot

Restrictions:

On deposit from the Union Congregational Church,  
Greenfield, NH, November 1992

Congregational Library  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
(617) 523-0470

Processed by Barbara Austen  
November 1992

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The rural community of Greenfield, located in southern New Hampshire, was incorporated in 1791. The following year, residents organized a Congregational church, known as the Church of Christ. In 1799, they called their first minister, Timothy Clark. The church was not without strife, and in 1822 a large number of members withdrew to form their own church, a branch of the Peterborough Presbyterian Church. Twelve years later, in 1834, the two congregations mended their differences and joined as the Evangelical Church. Not all of the members were pleased with the merger, and those who refused to join in 1834 organized the First Congregational Church in 1839, which met in the "Old Meeting House" on the green. Eventually the second floor of the meeting house was renovated for use by the church; the sanctuary is still used by the church today. In 1864, the Evangelical and Congregational Churches began meeting together; a merger between these two churches occurred in 1867. The resulting Union Congregational Church (officially the Congregational Church, Inc.), has continued to the present, and deposited its records with the Congregational Library in November 1992.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Union Congregational Church primarily consist of volumes of church minutes, representing the various organizations that preceded the current church, as well as annual reports from 1959 to the present. These materials are divided into two series, and then arranged chronologically. In Series A, Minutes, the earliest two volumes encompass the records of the Church of Christ, 1791-1834. These records include the confession of faith and signers; the church covenant; membership records; baptisms, deaths, and marriages; financial records; and minutes.

The records of the Evangelical Church of Christ date from 1833 when the Presbyterians and Congregationalists voted to merge, to 1867, the date of the final merger with the First Congregational Church. This volume consists of minutes, membership records, and baptisms.

The First Congregational Church records, 1839-1860, consist of the confession of faith, covenant, and signers; membership records; baptisms; and minutes. The records of the Union Congregational Church encompass three volumes of minutes, 1867-1969, and by-laws, 1977, 1985, and annual reports, 1958-1991, which are organized in Series B. The volumes of minutes include treasurer's records, membership records, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and church officers. The years 1956-1969 are unbound records. The by-laws and annual reports are typescripts. As these represent the only copies known by the minister to exist, they were copied on acid-free paper, and the originals returned to the church for their files.

The minutes, from 1791 to 1965, have been microfilmed. A positive copy is available at the Congregational Library. The negative and duplicate positives were sent to the Union Congregational Church in Greenfield for their own collection and for donation to local historical societies and libraries.

DESCRIPTION

Series A. Minutes, 1791-1969

- Volume 1. Church of Christ records, 1791-1822
- Volume 2. Congregational Church (Church of Christ) records, 1823-1834
- Volume 3. Evangelical Church of Christ records, 1833-1867
- Volume 4. Congregational Church records, 1839-1860
- Volume 5. Union Congregational Church records, 1867-1912
- Volume 6. " " " business meeting minutes, 1885-1898
- Volume 7. " " " records, 1913-1946
- Volume 8. " " " register, 1946-1957
- Folder 1. " " " records, 1956-1969

Series B. Annual Reports and By-Laws, 1958-1991

- Folder 1-3. Annual reports, 1958-1962, 1964-1973, 1976-1991
- Folder 4. By-laws, 1977, 1985; description of church and community, n.d.